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PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT OF GREEN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT: A LITERATURE REVIEW AND GAPS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Gustavo Tietz Cazeri^a; Rosley Anholon^a; Robert Eduardo Cooper Ordoñez^a; Olívio Novaski^a

^aState University of Campinas (UNICAMP) - Campinas - SP, Brazil

ABSTRACT

Green Supply Chain Management (GSCM) has been receiving increased attention because of the urgent need of organizations to address sustainability issues as a condition for their competitiveness, and the issue of how performance should be measured becomes crucial. This paper performs a literature review on an academic basis in order to identify the main subjects and sustainable dimensions of research studies involving the performance measurement of GSCM and the gaps for further research. Sixty three percent of the analyzed papers are associated with framework, mathematical modelling, empirical research and application, and the principal gaps to be explored are the metrics, measures and integration of the GSCM with existing quality methods. Almost all of these subjects are discussed in an economic and environmental dimension, remaining the social dimension a relevant gap to be explored. Based on this scenario, this paper intends to make a contribution to the academia and professionals of the area.

Keywords: supply chain management; green performance; literature review; sustainability.

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the last few decades, a greater amount of individuals are becoming more aware of the environmental problems of the world, including global warming, the use of toxic substance and the decrease in non-renewable resources (LUTHRA *et al.*, 2014). Environmental importance was specially stressed in 1987 when the World Commission on Environment and Development published the report *Our Common Future*, which defines sustainability as the utilization of resources to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (LUTHRA *et al.*, 2014).

In this context, the term “green supply chain management” (GSCM) emerged as the one that most closely linked sustainability concepts and practices into SCM (AHI *et al.*, 2013, *et al.* ASHBY *et al.*, 2012) and it proceeded to be one of the most important approaches in the field of environmental sustainability (HAZEN, 2011 *et al.* XUET *et al.*, 2013). According to Dubey *et al.* (2015), the importance of GSCM is mainly because of the rapid depletion of raw materials, environmental degradation and increased levels of pollution.

The GSCM has been increasingly discussed, recognized and incorporated by industries (SARKIS *et al.*, 2011), and it has been adopted by companies that tend to seek superior environmental performance (DIABAT *et al.* GOVINDAN, 2011). According to Ahi *et al.* Searcy (2013), there is an increasing recognition that organizations must address the issue of sustainability in their operations, and the management of supply chains is thus receiving increased prominence. According to Jabbour *et al.* (2014), sustainability has a permanent place in the agendas of approximately 70% of business leaders and a new management approach called GSCM takes place considering both the internal and the external context of organizations (ARANTES *et al.*, 2014).

On the other hand and according to Zhu *et al.* Sarkis (2006), business competitiveness encourages organizations to differentiate themselves from competitors by seeking a better environmental performance without compromising the economic results, considering the entire production chain in a win-win perspective, in which both environmental and economic aspects are simultaneously improved. According to Srivastava (2007), GSCM can reduce the ecological impact of an industrial activity without sacrificing quality, cost, reliability, performance or the efficiency of energy use, thereby meeting environmental regulations and enhancing the overall economic profit.

In this scenario, performance measurement becomes a relevant topic. According to Bai *et al.* Sarkis (2014), the evaluation and improvement of the supply chain performance require the development of performance

measurement systems and measures. Conventionally, supply chain performance measures have been orientated around cost, time and accuracy. However, organizations are now coming under increased scrutiny from customers and governments regarding their compliance with environmental and social responsibility (SHAW *et al.*, 2010). Even though sustainable performance assessment in SCM is increasing, there is insufficient integration and maturity in this respect in the socioeconomic sphere (CHARDINE-BAUMANN *et al.* BOTTA-GENOULAZ, 2014). The importance of performance measurement in the environmental, social and economic dimensions is also discussed by Elkington (1998), who introduced the “triple bottom line” concept – a new equation that reflects the needs of companies to measure the environmental, social and economic performance.

A number of literature reviews on GSCM have been published in the past few years. Some of these reviews have been general and comprehensively covered the entire field, while others have focused on specific aspects (FAHIMNIA *et al.*, 2015). Specifically considering the subject of performance measurement of GSCM, to the best of our knowledge, we found no research paper that provides a review of this topic, specifically. In this way, this paper provides a methodological review for a better understanding of the current state of research studies regarding the subject “performance measurement of GSCM” and answers the following questions: 1) “What are the main subjects addressed by academic research related to the performance measurement of GSCM and what are the issues with the potential to be better exploited?” and 2) “How much of each dimension – economic, social and environmental – is addressed by academic research related to the performance measurement of GSCM and what are the dimensions with the potential to be better exploited?”

To answer these questions, the following objectives were established: 1) to analyze the main scientific bases looking for papers related to the performance measurement of GSCM; 2) to perform the screening of papers related to the performance measurement of GSCM and to analyze and classify the results; and, 3) to establish conclusions on the main issues addressed and the gaps to be further researched by the academia.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definitions and concepts related to GSCM

The importance of the concepts of supply chain management and environmental management as strategic organizational practices to gain competitive advantage can be easily traced back to the early periods of the environmental management movement of the late 1960s (SARKIS *et al.*, 2011), but it received increased attention especially during the period of the late 1980s and investigations started to

become more established in the mid-1990s (FAHIMNIA *et al.*, 2015). The GSCM has emerged as an important organizational philosophy to achieve the objectives related to profit and market share of organizations by reducing environmental risks and impacts while improving the ecological efficiency of these organizations and their partners (DIABAT *et al.*, 2013).

A number of possible definitions for the GSCM have been put forth over the past decade, and there is a range of different focuses and purposes related to GSCM with no consensus (ZHU *et al.*, 2006). According to Lutra *et al.* (2014), various definitions have been suggested by different researchers and, currently, there is a lack of consensus about the definition and practices for the GSCM (FAHIMNIA *et al.*, 2015). Ahi *et al.* (2013) published a literature review paper focusing purely on the existing definitions for the GSCM. They found a total of twenty-two different definitions published for the GSCM, but no new or integrated definition was proposed.

As the GSCM embraces the SCM, initially this paper will present a definition of SCM. Ahi *et al.* (2013) have analyzed 173 definitions of SCM and they present the definition of Stock *et al.* (2009) as the one that takes into account the high number of key characteristics of the SCM. Therefore, this paper considers the definition according to Stock *et al.* (2009):

"The management of a network of relationships within a firm and between interdependent organizations and business units consisting of material suppliers, purchasing, production facilities, logistics, marketing, and related systems that facilitate the forward and reverse flow of materials, services, finances, and information from the original producer to the final customer with the benefits of adding value, maximizing profitability through efficiencies, and achieving customer satisfaction."

Regarding the definition of the GSCM, the one with the highest number of citations in the Scopus database is presented by Srivastava (2007), who defines it as: "integrating environmental thinking into supply chain management, including product design, material sourcing and selection, manufacturing processes, delivery of the final product to the consumers, as well as end-of-life management of the product after its useful life". Luthra *et al.* (2014) reinforces the importance of the economic criteria presenting GSCM as: "a multidisciplinary issue that emerges mainly from performing environmental management practices in the context of supply chains keeping the economic criteria in their minds."

According to Srivastava (2007), GSCM can be classified based on the methodology, such as thought papers / perspectives, frameworks / approaches, empirical studies,

mathematical modelling approaches and reviews. Thought papers / perspectives and frameworks / approaches focus on the necessity and importance of GSCM, define the meaning and scope of various terms and suggest approaches to further explore the area. Empirical studies include case research, field surveys and interviews, field experiments, mail surveys, laboratory experiments and game simulations. Mathematical modelling approaches consist on the tools and techniques that have been used for problem formulation. Reviews consider the existing literature about the various aspects and facets of the GSCM.

Taking into consideration the classification according to the dimension of the GSCM, Elkington (1998) presents the growing need of a company to address issues related to three areas of responsibility – financial, social and environmental – because of the growing pressure from governments and citizens for business to become ever more responsible. This scenario has led to the formulation of a new value formula called 'triple bottom line' that reflects the economic, social and environmental performance as the elements of a new equation to assess and express the value of a company in terms of its 'sustainability'.

Chardine-Baumann *et al.* (2014) have also considered these three dimensions for sustainable development: environmental management, social responsibility and economic contribution. Each of these dimensions is detailed below. These three dimensions are also presented by Wittstruck *et al.* (2012), and they are aligned with the "triple bottom line" presented by Elkington (1998). Below we show the description of each dimension according to Chardine-Baumann *et al.* (2014).

- a) Environmental: Environmental management (environmental budget, environmental certification, environmental compliance, worker implications), use of resources (renewable energy, recycled water, inputs from recycling, recyclable outputs, recyclable wastes), pollution (air pollution, water pollution, land pollution, other pollution), dangerousness (dangerous inputs, dangerous outputs, dangerous wastes) and natural environment (eco-systemic services, respect of biodiversity, land use, development of urban and rural areas).
- b) Social responsibility: work conditions (employment, work conditions, respect of social dialog, health and security, development of human resources), human rights (child and forced labor, freedom of association, discrimination), social commitment (involvement in local communities, education, culture and technological development, job creation, healthcare, social investment), customer

issues (marketing and information, healthcare and security, protection of private life, access to essential services) and business practices (fight against corruption, fair-trading, promotion of corporate social responsibility in the sphere of influence).

- c) Economic contribution: reliability (customer service, supplier service, reliability of stocks, reliability of estimates), responsiveness (design responsiveness, purchase responsiveness, source responsiveness, production responsiveness, delivery responsiveness, sales responsiveness, return responsiveness, supply chain responsiveness), flexibility (flexibility of suppliers, supply flexibility, production flexibility, delivery flexibility), financial performance (design cost, purchase cost, source cost, production cost, delivery cost, return cost, supply chain cost) and quality (product/service quality, quality performance of suppliers, production quality).

2.2 Performance Measurement of GSCM

According to Taticchi *et al.* (2010), since the mid-1980s, companies have emphasized the growing need of controlling production business processes. Companies have been understanding to compete in continuously changing environments it is necessary monitoring their performances.

According to Wong (2009), performance measurement is crucial to better supply the chain management, and the sustainable supply chain performance measurement has its foundations in this emergent work on supply chain performance measurement. According to Vasileiou *et al.* (2006), the importance of the sustainability criteria to measure and report supply chain performance has been increased in the current competitive economic, social and environmental scenario.

The performance measurement aspect of green supply chains has been justified by several authors. Rao *et al.* (2005) found that greening of the different phases of the supply chain has led to competitiveness and better economic performance.

Liang *et al.* (2006) have highlighted that, for an effective green supply chain management, the evaluation of the overall performance of the entire chain is crucial. Since greening cannot be achieved overnight, performance measures will reveal at any point the extent to which an organization has invested in its environmental supply chain initiative (OLUGU *et al.*, 2011). Moreover, with the increasing integration of sustainability into SCM, "the question of how to measure supply chain wide sustainability performance is paramount" (SEURING *et al.* GOLD, 2013).

According to Hervani *et al.* (2005), the purposes of the performance measurement of GSCM are: external reporting (economic rent), internal control (better managing the business) and internal analysis (better understanding the business and continuous improvement). These are the fundamental issues that drive the development of frameworks for business performance measurement. In this context, supply chain managers have great power to affect the sustainable performance by making decisions related supplier selection and development, modal and carrier selection, vehicle routing, location decisions, packaging choices and others (CARTER *et al.* EASTON, 2011).

In the development of the supply chain management metric system the main steps are establishing the right metrics, linking metrics to strategic objectives and creating a detailed metrics database (FALDU *et al.* KRISHNA, 2007). According to Bai *et al.* (2010), the integration of tangible and intangible performance measures adds managing complexity to the supply chain performance.

While the relationship between practices, economic and environmental performance in developed economies has been extensively discussed in literature, the relationships between green practices and performance, especially in developing economy countries, remain relatively unexplored (LAOSIRIHONGTHONG *et al.*, 2013).

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scientific Research Classification

The classification of this scientific research follows the classical criteria. From the perspective of methods, this research presents deductive characteristics because it analyzes papers published on scientific bases and reaches conclusions based on this information. According to Lakatos *et al.* Marconi (2003), deduction allows the emerging conclusions from true premises. Similar to Silva *et al.* Menezes (2005), deduction aims to explain the content of assumptions and facts through reason. Based on Andrade (1999), this method was first introduced by René Descartes, for whom the only way to find a certainty was through the reason – the absolute principle of human knowledge.

Regarding technical procedures, this research can be classified as bibliographic because it uses materials already developed and published, mainly books and scientific papers. According to Gil (2002) and Lakatos *et al.* Marconi (2003), the bibliographic research covers the entire bibliography already published in relation to the subject of study. Its purpose is to put the researcher in direct contact with all that has been written, said or filmed about the subject of study.

Considering the approach of the question, this research is classified as qualitative because it has a sequence of activities

involving data reduction, categorization, interpretation and final conclusion. According to Gil (2002), this procedure sets a qualitative study. Similar to Silva *et Menezes* (2005), the data base interpretation and the assigning of meanings to it are essential in the qualitative research process, which does not require the use of statistical methods. Based on Godoy (1995), qualitative research does not attempt to enumerate the events studied nor employs statistical instruments in analyzing the data base.

Regarding the nature of this research, it is classified as applied. According to Silva *et Menezes* (2005), applied research is one that generates knowledge for practical application and aims to solve specific problems.

Finally, regarding the objective, it is classified as exploratory. According to Gil (2002), exploratory research aims to improve ideas or discover intuitions in order to provide greater familiarity with the question.

3.2 Research Method

Based on the purpose of this paper, which is to identify papers related to performance measurement of GSCM and classify them in order to find gaps, issues and opportunities for further studies and researches, a literature review is a valid approach. This helps to identify the conceptual content of the field and guides the study towards theory development (SRIVASTAVA, 2007).

The key words used for data collection were “Green SupplyChain”, “performance measurement”, “performance assessment”, “maturity”, “measurement model” and “key performance indicators” (KPI). Five combinations of these key words were used including: (1) Green Supply Chain AND performance measurement, (2) Green Supply Chain AND performance assessment, (3) Green Supply Chain AND maturity, (4) Green Supply Chain AND measurement model and (5) Green Supply Chain AND key performance indicators.

Using the “title, abstract, keywords” search in scientific bases, we collected and stored “journal” papers (conference papers, books and chapters of books were excluded) for the defined search terms with maximum published age of ten (10) years. The investigated scientific bases searched were: Web of Science, Emerald, Scopus, Wiley, SciELO and Periódicos Capes.

The initial search on the scientific bases resulted in forty-five (45) papers. After a detailed analysis and considering only the papers related to GSCM performance, the sample to be studied consisted of forty (40) papers.

The subjects addressed in these papers were identified and classified according to the Table 1 and Table 2. The categories of Table 1 are detailed below.

Table 1. Categories used to classify papers based on methodology

1. Framework / model / approach
2. Metrics / measures
3. Integration of GSCM with existing quality methods and tools
4. Literature review
5. Empirical Research / Application

Source: The authors own

Bellow, there is a description of each category. This classification was elaborated by the authors based on the classification of methodology proposed by Srivastava (2007).

- Framework/approach/model (1): refers to papers whose subjects propose frameworks and approaches to better explore the performance area of GSCM. Model refers to papers that use mathematical tools and techniques for a performance problem formulation for the GSCM;
- Metrics/measures (2): includes papers that discuss the metrics and measures to evaluate the performance of GSCM;
- Integration of GSCM with existing quality methods and tools (3): refers to papers that analyze the performance of GSCM integrated with an existing performance management system (quality, environmental, supply chain, etc.);
- Literature review (4): refers to papers that explore the existing literature about the various aspects and facets of the performance area of GSCM;
- Empirical/Application (5): refers to papers that include case research studies, field surveys and interviews, field experiments, mail surveys, laboratory experiments and game simulations.

Based on sustainable development, the papers were classified according to the three dimensions mentioned in item “definitions and concepts related to GSCM” (item 2.1). These categories are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Categories used to classify papers based on sustainable development dimensions

1. Economic
2. Social
3. Environmental

Source: Compiled from Chardine-Baumann *et Botta-Genoulaz* (2014) *et Elkington* (1998)

4. RESULTS

The forty (40) papers mentioned in item “research method” (item 3.2) are detailed in Table 3 below based on their subjects.

Table 3. Analyzed papers

Item	Reference	Subject	Title	Journal or Magazine
1	Acquaye <i>et al.</i> (2014)	To develop a benchmarking framework to address issues such as supply chain complexity and visibility, geographical differences and non-standardized data, ensuring that the entire supply chain environmental impact (in terms of carbon) and resource use for all tiers are evaluated.	Benchmarking carbon emissions performance in supply chains	Supply Chain Management: An International Journal
2	Ahi <i>et Searcy</i> (2015)	To identify and analyze the metrics published in the literature on GSCM and sustainable supply chain management (SSCM).	An analysis of metrics used to measure performance in green and sustainable supply chains	Journal of Cleaner Production
3	Ala-Harja <i>et Helo</i> (2014)	To propose a framework of decisions from the greening point of view and its impact on performance based on case analyses from the food industry, mainly the orderpicking, transportation, warehousing and distribution.	Green supply chain decisions – Case-based performance analysis from the food industry	Transportation Research
4	Arantes <i>et al.</i> (2014)	To analyze how GSCM practices are induced, both internally and externally, by focal companies on their supply chains located in the Brazilian high-tech segment.	Adoption of Green Supply Chain Management practices: mechanisms of induction and the role of focal companies	Production
5	Azevedo <i>et al.</i> (2011)	To investigate the relationships between green practices of supply chain management and supply chain performance in the context of the Portuguese automotive industry.	The influence of green practices on supply chain performance: A case study approach	Transportation Research
6	Bai <i>et Sarkis</i> (2014)	To introduce a methodology to identify sustainable supply chain key performance indicators (KPI) that can then be used for the sustainability performance evaluation of suppliers.	Determining and applying sustainable supplier key performance indicators	Supply Chain Management: An International Journal
7	Baiet <i>al.</i> (2010)	To introduce a relatively novel rough set theory application to aid supplier management based on green and sustainable supply chain management.	Addressing key sustainable supply chain management issues using rough set methodology	Management Research Review
8	Baiet <i>al.</i> (2012)	To introduce a methodology to help evaluate, select and monitor sustainable supply chain performance measurement that can be integrated into a performance management system (PMS).	Evaluating ecological sustainable performance measures for supply chain management	Supply Chain Management: An International Journal
9	Bhagwat <i>et Sharma</i> (2007)	To develop a balanced scorecard for supply chain management (SCM) that measures and evaluates day-to-day business operations following four perspectives: finance, customer, internal business process and learning and growth.	Performance measurement of supply chain management: A balanced scorecard approach	Computers & Industrial Engineering
10	Bhattacharya <i>et al.</i> (2014)	To delineate a green supply chain (GSC) performance measurement framework using an intra-organizational collaborative decision-making (CDM) approach.	Green supply chain performance measurement using fuzzy ANP-based balanced scorecard: a collaborative decision-making approach	Production Planning & Control
11	Bjorklund; Forslund (2013)	To investigate the purposes of having environmental performance measurement systems (EPMS) in logistics and in what ways the purpose of an EPMS can influence the focus in the supply chain.	The purpose and focus of environmental performance measurements systems in logistics	International Journal of Productivity and Performance Management
12	Bjorklund <i>et al.</i> (2012)	To present a framework of dimensions and a practical example on how environmental performance measurements can be a success by applying these dimensions.	Performance measurements in the greening of supply chains	Supply Chain Management: An International Journal
13	Chardine-Baumann <i>et Botta-Genoulaz</i> (2014)	To propose a framework for sustainable performance characterization and an analytical model for sustainable performance assessment.	A framework for sustainable performance assessment of supply chain	Computers & Industrial Engineering
14	Chithambaranathan <i>et al.</i> (2015)	To propose a grey based hybrid framework for evaluating the environmental performance of service supply chains by integrating the grey based method with the ELECTRE and VIKOR approaches.	Service supply chain environmental performance evaluation using grey based hybrid MCDM approach	International Journal of Production Economics
15	Chuang (2014)	To present a compound approach with a five-phase process to assess and improve green performance.	Assessing and improving the green performance using a compound approach	Flexible Services and Manufacturing Journal

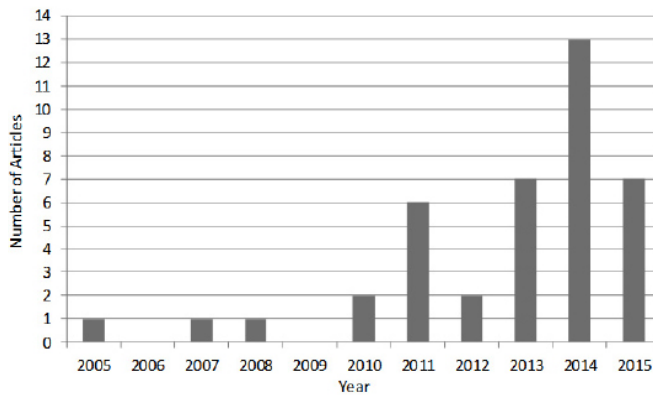
Item	Reference	Subject	Title	Journal or Magazine
16	Dey <i>et al.</i> (2013)	To develop and deploy an analytical framework for measuring the environmental performance of manufacturing supply chains.	Green supply chain performance measurement using the analytic hierarchy process: a comparative analysis of manufacturing organisations	Production Planning <i>et al.</i> Control
17	Diabat <i>et al.</i> (2013)	To explore the practices and performances of the GSCM based on the GSCM literature and the relationship between green supply chain practices (initiatives) and performance outcomes in an automotive industry.	An exploration of green supply chain practices and performances in an automotive industry	International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology
18	Dubey <i>et al.</i> (2015)	To explore the antecedents of Indian companies practicing green manufacturing practices and their impact on extended supply chain performance.	Exploring antecedents of extended supply chain performance measures - an insight from Indian green manufacturing practices	Benchmarking: An International Journal
19	Dubey <i>et al.</i> (2015)	To test the impacts of supplier relationship management (SRM) and total quality management (TQM) on environmental performance under the influence of leadership and the moderation effect of institutional pressures (IP).	Exploring the relationship between leadership, operational practices, institutional pressures and environmental performance: A framework for green supply chain	International Journal of Production Economics
20	El Saadany <i>et al.</i> (2011)	To develop an analytical decision model that is used to investigate the performance of a supply chain based on product, process and environmental quality characteristics.	Environmental performance measures for supply chains	Management Research Review
21	Genovese <i>et al.</i> (2014)	To explore the challenges associated with implementing supplier environmental performance measurement models in the context of a global supply chain.	Exploring the challenges in implementing supplier environmental performance measurement models: a case study	Production Planning <i>et al.</i> Control
22	Hervani <i>et al.</i> (2005)	To introduce and provide an overview of the various issues related to the environmental performance measurement of (green) supply chain management.	Performance measurement for green supply chain management	Benchmarking: An International Journal
23	Jabbour <i>et al.</i> (2015)	To test a new conceptual model based on the relationship between quality management (QM), environmental management maturity (EMM), adoption of external practices of GSCM and green performance (GP) with data from 95 Brazilian companies with ISO 14001.	Quality management, environmental management maturity, green supply chain practices and green performance of Brazilian companies with ISO 14001 certification: Direct and indirect effects	Transportation Research
24	Jabbour <i>et al.</i> (2014)	To verify the relationship between the maturity levels of environmental management and the adoption of green supply chain management (GSCM) practices by electronics companies in Brazil.	Mixed methodology to analyze the relationship between maturity of environmental management and the adoption of green supply chain management in Brazil	Resources, Conservation and Recycling
25	Kim <i>et al.</i> (2011)	To examine whether some countries achieve logistics efficiency at the cost of compromising environmental quality.	Measuring supply chain efficiency from a green perspective	Management Research Review
26	Laosirihongthong <i>et al.</i> (2013)	To examine the implementation of proactive and reactive practices in the green supply chain management (GSCM) and to analyze their impact on the environmental, economic and intangible performance.	Green supply chain management practices and performance	Industrial Management <i>et al.</i> Data Systems
27	Lau (2011)	To discuss the development and use of a green logistics performance index (GLPI) for easy comparison of performance among industries and countries.	Benchmarking green logistics performance with a composite index	Benchmarking: An International Journal
28	Lee <i>et al.</i> (2014)	To address the way economic and environmental performance can be measured simultaneously, taking a multi-methodological approach for the logistics and supply chain management.	Integrating sustainability performance measurement into logistic and supply networks: A multi-methodological approach	The British Accounting Review

Item	Reference	Subject	Title	Journal or Magazine
29	Linet <i>et al.</i> (2014)	To propose a hybrid approach for the evaluation of the implementation and performance of the green supply chain management (GSCM) of a company, including the hierarchical structure and analytic network process. Additionally, this study applies the fuzzy set theory to determine linguistic preferences.	Implementation and Performance Evaluation of a Firm's Green Supply Chain Management under uncertainty	Industrial Engineering <i>et</i> Management Systems
30	Lirn <i>et al.</i> (2013)	To measure the green performance of a port; the literature is reviewed and a survey is carried out to identify the performance indicators of major green ports and to evaluate the overall green performance of three major ports in Asia.	Green performance criteria for sustainable ports in Asia	International Journal of Physical Distribution <i>et</i> Logistics Management
31	Luthra <i>et al.</i> (2014)	To introduce and provide an overview of the various issues related to GSCM and to suggest further scope and direction of research in this emerging field.	Green supply chain management implementation and performance - a literature review and some issues	Journal of Advances in Management Research
32	Luthra <i>et al.</i> (2015)	To identify, analyze and model the Critical Success Factors (CSFs) to implement GSCM towards sustainability in industries in the Indian perspective.	An analysis of interactions among critical success factors to implement green supply chain management towards sustainability: An Indian perspective	Resources Policy
33	Naini <i>et al.</i> (2011)	To propose a mixed performance measurement system using a combination of evolutionary game theory and the balanced scorecard (BSC) in environmental supply chain management (ESCM)	Designing a mixed performance measurement system for environmental supply chain management using evolutionary game theory and balanced scorecard	Resources, Conservation and Recycling
34	Olugu <i>et al.</i> (2011)	To develop a set of measures to evaluate the performance of the automobile green supply chain.	Development of key performance measures for the automobile green supply chain	Resources, Conservation and Recycling
35	Pazirandeh <i>et al.</i> (2013)	To evaluate whether or not greening efforts are dependent on a higher level company-wide sustainability strategy to be carried out and whether or not greening efforts lead to any changes in logistics effectiveness and logistics efficiency.	Making sense of green logistics	Journal of Productivity and Performance Management
36	Rostamzadeh <i>et al.</i> (2015)	To develop a quantitative evaluation model to measure the uncertainty of GSCM activities and it applies an approach based on the VIKOR method aiming to solve the green multi-criteria decision making (GMCDM) problem.	Application of fuzzy VIKOR for evaluation of green supply chain management practices	Ecological Indicators
37	Shawet <i>et al.</i> (2010)	To review the extant literature and to present a proposed research agenda to examine whether green performance measures can be integrated within an existing supply chain performance framework.	Developing environmental supply chain performance measures	Benchmarking: An International Journal
38	Shenet <i>et al.</i> (2013)	To propose a fuzzy multi criteria approach for the evaluation of green suppliers based on green supply chain management (GSCM).	A fuzzy multi-criteria approach for evaluating green suppliers' performance in green supply chain with linguistic preferences	Resources, Conservation and Recycling
39	Stefanelli <i>et al.</i> (2014)	To present the results of a survey related to GSCM and environmental performance (EP) conducted on 80 micro, small and medium enterprises that are suppliers in the Brazilian bioenergy sector (sugar cane and ethanol production).	Green supply chain management and environmental performance of firms in the bioenergy sector in Brazil: An exploratory survey	Energy Policy
40	Zhu <i>et al.</i> (2008)	To test and compare two measurement models for the implementation of GSCM practices among manufacturers in China.	Confirmation of a measurement model for green supply chain management practices implementation	International Journal of Production Economics

Source: The authors own

The Figure 1 shows the papers presented in Table 3 sorted by date. The expressive growth of the number of research papers in 2015 and the last two years compared to previous years can be easily identified and this is aligned

with the increase in published papers on GSCM. It reinforces the claim that GSCM has been increasingly discussed in the previous years (SARKIS *et al.*, 2011), as well as the performance measurement of GSCM.



Note: Data regarding 2015 includes articles published up to August.

Figure 1. Distribution of published papers per year

Source: The authors own

In addition to the above, considering the database presented on Table 3, we did a division according to the items presented in Table 1 and Figure 2 presents the results of this classification. It shows that 35% of the papers (fourteen papers) have their subjects associated with “framework/model/approach” (item 1), 28% of the papers (eleven papers) have their subjects associated with “empirical/application” (item 2), 15% of the papers (six papers) have their subjects associated with “metrics/measures” (item 3), 15% of the papers (six papers) have their subjects associated with “integration of GSCM with existing quality methods and tools” (item 4) and 7% of the papers (three papers) have their subjects associated with “literature review” (item 5).

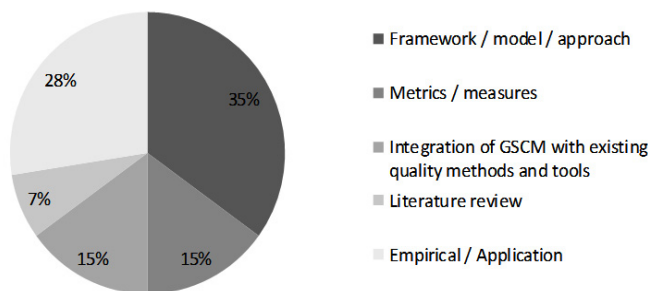


Figure 2. Distribution of papers according to the items presented in Table 3

Source: The authors own

This result demonstrates a high possibility of research studies that can be developed in the item “metrics/measures” (item 3) and item “integration of GSCM with existing quality methods and tools” (item 4). Regarding “metrics/measures” (item 3), it is important to mention Ahi et Searcy (2015) as, according to them, there is a lack of agreement on how performance should be measured in the area of GSCM. Despite its importance, the “integration of GSCM with existing quality methods and tools” (item 4) also assumes a relevant aspect as organizations are now coming under increased scrutiny from customers and governments regarding their compliance with environmental and social responsibility, and not only regarding the conventional

supply chain performance measures orientated towards cost, time and accuracy (SHAW *et al.*, 2010).

Regarding item “literature review” (item 5), only three papers were classified in this item. It is a very small amount of papers because literature reviews take an important role on an emergent subject, such as GSCM, showing an up-to-date scenario and identifying gaps on the works carried out. Thereby, this paper intends to make a contribution to this item, presenting the main subjects addressed by the academic research studies related to the performance measurement of GSCM and the issues with the potential to be better exploited.

Most research studies were associated with “framework/model/approach” (item 1) and “empirical research/application” (item 2). These research studies discuss real subjects, introduce a novel rough set theory application, develop a benchmarking framework or mathematical modelling and provide practical results and comparisons.

Regarding the sustainable development dimensions, the papers presented in Table 3 were classified according to three dimensions: environmental, economic contribution and social responsibility, as described in Table 2. The result is presented in Figure 3.

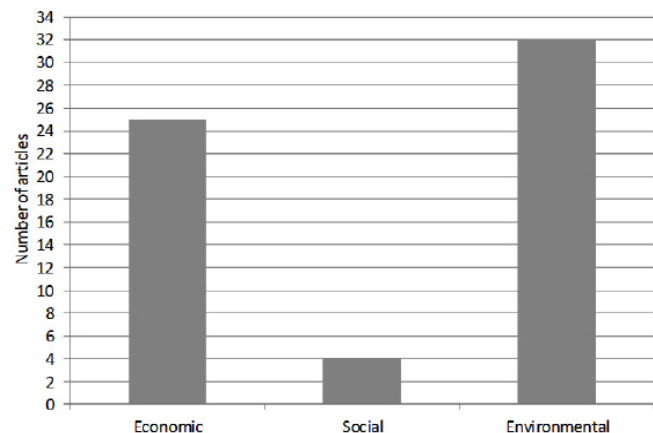


Figure 3. Distribution of papers according to the sustainable development dimensions

Source: The authors own

We can note that the performance of GSCM has been assessed almost equally in the economic and environmental dimensions. It demonstrates that the economic measurement, initially oriented exclusively to the performance measurement systems of the SCM, is linked to the environmental performance measurement regarding the GSCM. However, the social responsibility dimension can be considered as still being unexplored in the performance measurement of GSCM, and it demonstrates a gap of research studies in this area. By defining the sustainable performance of a practice as the combination of its environmental, economic and social performances (CHARDINE-BAUMANN *et al.* BOTTA-GENOULAZ, 2014), we can deduce that new

research studies on the performance measurements of GSCM should consider the social responsibility dimension in addition to the economic and environmental dimensions currently used for the performance measurement of GSCM. This affirmation is also reinforced by Elkington (1998), who emphasizes the current necessity of the alignment of companies with the “triple bottom line” concept.

5. CONCLUSION

As mentioned above, this paper has been engaged in the analysis of the main bases of scientific data in order to identify the main subjects of research studies associated with the performance measurement of GSCM. The search in scientific bases has enabled the finding of forty (40) papers, which were analyzed and categorized into categories structured based on Srivastava(2007) and according to Chardine-Baumann *et* Botta-Genoulaz(2014) *et* Elkington (1998).

In light of the results found, we could answer the two proposed questions. Regarding the first question (question 1 in section 1 “Introduction”), the main subject researched on the performance measurement of GSCM is related to “framework/model/approach” (item 1) and the second most researched subject on the performance measurement of GSCM is “empirical research / application” (item 2), with a difference of three papers. Both items presented a significant higher number of scientific research studies than the other subjects, which had three, or at most six, published papers. The mainly noticed gaps are: “metrics/measures” (item 3), “integration of GSCM with existing quality methods and tools” (item 4) and “literature review” (item 5).

Regarding the second question (question 2 in section 1 “Introduction”), it is important to mention that research on performance measurement of GSCM should consider the triad: environmental, social responsibility and economic contribution, regardless of the research item to be explored. Currently, we have found that almost all papers on performance measurement of GSCM take into consideration only the economic and environmental dimensions, and they do not consider the social responsibility dimension.

Thus, we expect that these results and conclusions will be valuable to both the academia and professionals of the area, in this way stimulating further research studies on the area of performance measurement of GSCM.

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